

Backwaters & Birding: Kumarakom Wetlands & Thattekad Bird Sanctuary

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
Kerala

Duration
4 Nights 5 Days

Starting from
Rs. 15,750 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Kumarakom · 2N**

↖ **Alleppey · 1N**

↖ **Thattekad · 1N**

📌 Overview

Experience the best of Kerala with this 4 nights / 5 days Kerala tour package designed for nature lovers, birders and backwater enthusiasts. This thoughtfully curated Kerala Wildlife tour package blends serene backwater stays around Kumarakom & Vembanad Lake with immersive birding at the famed Thattekad (Salim Ali) Bird Sanctuary. Highlights at a glance:

- Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary & boat-based birdwatching
- Traditional Kerala houseboat cruise on the Vembanad backwaters
- Guided early-morning birding at Thattekad Bird Sanctuary
- Scenic transfers through Kerala's village landscapes and wetlands

This 4 and 5 Kerala Wildlife tour package is ideal for photographers, birding groups and travelers seeking a relaxing wildlife-focused escape.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation for 4 nights (2 nights in Kumarakom, 1 night on a houseboat in Alleppey, 1 night in Thattekad) with specified meal plan.
- ✓ Daily breakfast at hotels/resort (all meals included on the houseboat).
- ✓ Private transfers and sightseeing by air-conditioned vehicle as per itinerary.
- ✓ Guided birdwatching sessions at Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary and Thattekad (professional local naturalist/guide).
- ✓ Houseboat cruise with crew, fuel and onboard meals (lunch & dinner on cruise day).
- ✓ Entrance fees to listed sanctuaries and boat charges for birding trips where applicable.
- ✓ All taxes and service charges.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ International / domestic flights or train fares to reach Kochi.
- ✗ Airport departure taxes, visa fees and travel insurance.
- ✗ Meals not specified in inclusions and personal expenses (laundry, phone calls, etc.).
- ✗ Tips/gratuities for guides, drivers and houseboat crew (recommended but not included).
- ✗ Camera/video permits (if required at any site) and any additional optional activities.
- ✗ Anything not explicitly mentioned under inclusions.
- ✗ Important: Seasonal changes (monsoon, migratory timings) may affect species visibility and certain boat routes – please check recommended travel windows for birding.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Kochi — Transfer to Kumarakom, Sunset Cruise & Evening Birding

Arrival at Cochin International Airport / Ernakulam Railway Station. Meet and greet, then enjoy a scenic drive to Kumarakom (approx. 1–1.5 hours). Check in to your resort and relax. In the late afternoon, embark on a sunset cruise on Vembanad Lake—a perfect introduction to Kerala's backwaters and waterbird life. After the cruise, take a short guided walk or drive to the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary for an evening birding session and view roosting waterfowl.

Tip: Carry binoculars and a light jacket for the cooler lakeside breeze.

Day

2

Kumarakom — Morning Birdwatching, Village Walk & Leisure

Begin early with a guided birdwatching session at the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary. Expect sightings of herons, egrets, kingfishers, and seasonal migratory species. Return to the resort for breakfast. Later enjoy a traditional Kerala canoe (shikara) ride through narrow canals to experience village life, paddy fields and local fishing techniques. Afternoon at leisure — opt for an Ayurvedic massage or explore nearby village markets.

Note: Bird activity is best at dawn; our guide will take you to the top vantage spots.

Day

3

Houseboat Cruise on Vembanad Backwaters — Alleppey Experience

After breakfast check out and transfer to Alleppey (Alappuzha) to board your traditional Kerala houseboat. Settle in and begin a scenic cruise along the Vembanad backwaters and palm-lined canals. Enjoy freshly prepared Kerala cuisine on board (lunch and dinner included). The cruise offers exceptional birdwatching from the deck — keep an eye out for egrets, brahminty kites and, in season, migratory ducks. Overnight on the houseboat, gently moored in a quiet backwater stretch.

Important: Houseboat routes are flexible and adjusted to tides and weather for the best wildlife viewing.

Day

4

Transfer to Thattekad – Evening Nature Walk

Disembark after breakfast and drive to Thattekad Bird Sanctuary (Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary) – approx. 2–3 hours depending on route. Check in to your nature lodge and relax. In the late afternoon, enjoy a guided nature walk or a short birding session near the lodge. Thattekad is renowned for its rich avifauna including hornbills, woodpeckers, flycatchers, and several endemic species.

Tip: Wear comfortable walking shoes and insect repellent for trails.

Day

5

Thattekad – Early Morning Guided Birding & Departure

Rise early for a guided pre-dawn birding excursion—boat-based and trail birding options are available depending on conditions. Focus on spotting key species and enjoying extended photography opportunities with your guide. Return to the lodge for breakfast, check out, and transfer to Kochi for your onward journey (airport/railway drop). End of tour.

Note: Early starts maximize bird activity; guides will prepare a target species list based on season.

? Frequently Asked Questions

? What are the top tourist destinations in Kerala?

Kerala offers stunning tourist destinations like Munnar’s tea plantations, Alleppey’s backwaters, Kochi’s vibrant culture, and Wayanad’s lush hills. Don’t miss the stunning beaches of Varkala and Kovalam, as well as the tranquil landscapes of Thekkady and Kumarakom. Each offers unique experiences for every traveler.

? What is the best time to visit Kerala?

The best time to visit Kerala is from October to March. During these months, the weather is pleasantly cool and dry, making it ideal for exploring the lush backwaters, hill stations, and vibrant culture. Remember to experience the festivals and local events that take place during this peak tourist season!

❓ **How can I travel around Kerala?**

Traveling around Kerala is easy thanks to its extensive transport options. You can use private taxis, auto-rickshaws, and public buses. For scenic routes, consider hiring a houseboat, especially in the backwaters of Alleppey. Trains and domestic flights connect major cities, making exploration seamless.

❓ **What are the famous cuisines to try in Kerala?**

Kerala is renowned for its delicious cuisine, featuring dishes like Sambar, Appam, and Puttu. Don't miss the spicy Kerala fish curry and the delectable dosa. For a unique experience, try traditional Sadya, a vegetarian feast served on a banana leaf, highlighting the region's rich flavors and diverse culinary traditions.

❓ **What activities can I enjoy in Kerala's backwaters?**

In Kerala's backwaters, you can enjoy serene houseboat cruises, kayaking through lush mangroves, and bird watching. Experience local cuisine on board, visit traditional villages, and partake in unique cultural performances. Don't miss the opportunity for peaceful sunsets and picturesque landscapes!

❓ **Is Kerala suitable for family vacations?**

Yes, Kerala is ideal for family vacations! With its serene backwaters, lush hill stations, wildlife sanctuaries, and beautiful beaches, it offers a variety of activities for all ages. Families can enjoy houseboat rides, explore spice plantations, and visit cultural sites, making it a memorable destination.

❓ **What are the important festivals celebrated in Kerala?**

Kerala is home to vibrant festivals like Onam, celebrated with colorful festivities and the traditional feast; Vishu, marking the New Year with family gatherings; and Thrissur Pooram, showcasing grand temple processions and spectacular fireworks. These events reflect the rich culture and heritage, making Kerala a unique tourist destination.

★ **Traveller Reviews**



Aditi Rao

★★★★★ 5/5

Everlasting Impressions of Kerala

From the stunning scenery to rich traditions, this tour made lasting impressions. I can't help but reminisce about the experiences. Highly recommend!



Kunal Kaur

★★★★★ 5/5

A Well-Rounded Experience

This Kerala tour provided a perfect blend of relaxation and activities. We got to unwind in the backwaters and explore beautiful hill stations. A great balance!



Vani Dubey

★★★★★ 5/5

Heavenly Kerala Escape

Kerala felt like heaven on earth! The combination of nature, culture, and warm hospitality made it a trip to remember. I left a piece of my heart there!



Kiran Menon

★★★★☆ 4/5

An Immersive Eco-Tour

The eco-tour experience was unique and educational. We learned about sustainable practices while enjoying the nature-rich surroundings. Very well organized!



Rajesh Iyer

★★★★★ 5/5

Charming Village Tours

Exploring local villages was a highlight. Interacting with locals and understanding their lifestyle was eye-opening. Very enriching experience!

Why Choose TourGrids?

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